



HR1292

LRB098 22977 GRL 61937 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Leon  
4 Conner, who passed away on October 5, 2014; and

5           WHEREAS, Leon Conner was born on August 26, 1918 in  
6 Carthage, Texas; his parents were Marvin and Selma Thomas  
7 Conner; he married Odie Marie Leary on April 24, 1942 in  
8 Chicago; and

9           WHEREAS, Leon Conner grew up on small farmhouse, where he  
10 was taught at an early age the importance of faith, family  
11 values, and education which he carried throughout his life;  
12 after graduating from high school, he moved to Chicago; in  
13 1941, he settled in Maywood; and

14           WHEREAS, Leon Conner was drafted into the United States  
15 Army in August of 1942 during World War II; during his military  
16 career, he served as a First Sergeant and was responsible for  
17 training over 120 soldiers under his command while serving in  
18 Texas; after his honorable discharge in 1945, he returned to  
19 Maywood to be with his family; and

20           WHEREAS, Leon Conner was employed as a machinist at  
21 Commonwealth Edison, where he retired after 43 years of

1 service; and

2 WHEREAS, Leon Conner was very involved with the Maywood  
3 Village Board and local government organizations; he also  
4 worked with a host of community activists, politicians, and  
5 volunteer groups and donated to various charities and  
6 non-profit organizations; and

7 WHEREAS, Leon Conner was an organizing member of the  
8 Maywood branch of the NAACP, the Maywood Bataan Committee, the  
9 Maywood Zoning Committee, and American Legion Emanuel L. Young  
10 Post 838; he also served as Treasurer of the Christian Action  
11 Ministry, committeeman for the Proviso Leyden Council for  
12 Community Action, and co-founder of the Home and Neighborhood  
13 Defenders Society with his son, former Mayor Ralph Conner; and

14 WHEREAS, Leon Conner was a huge car enthusiast and enjoyed  
15 restoring old cars, listening to music, and reading classical  
16 and historical books; he also enjoyed traveling the country in  
17 his RV with his family; and

18 WHEREAS, As a child, Leon Conner attended Mt. Zion  
19 Christian Methodist Episcopal Church; he and his wife later  
20 joined Canaan African Methodist Episcopal Church and worshiped  
21 there for many years under Reverend Higgenbotham and Reverend  
22 J.W. James; and

1           WHEREAS, Leon Conner was preceded in death by his parents;  
2 siblings, Inez Jones and Herese Bowman; his wife, Odie Marie;  
3 and 3 children, Thomas Earl, Ralph Wesley and Alva Cheryl; and

4           WHEREAS, Leon Conner is survived by 3 daughters, Joy,  
5 Marilyn, and Melody; a sibling, Vater Fite; 13 grandchildren;  
6 15 great-grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and  
7 friends; therefore, be it

8           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
9 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
10 we, along with his family and friends, mourn the passing of  
11 Leon Conner; and be it further

12           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the family of Leon Conner as an expression of our  
14 sympathy.